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THURSDAY
DECEMBER 31, 1953

Usual type of morning at the office.

Denise and René Mayer lunched with us and were pleased with the 1929 Cheval Blanc. I talked to René about the situation in Morocco. It seems a change there is impending since General Guillaume is slated to retire as Resident General. It may be that a civilian will be named in his stead. René says [redacted] he cannot be considered because of [redacted] being a Jew. However, I understand [redacted] he may be offered the Washington Embassy. If so, he would do excellently there. Bonnet, Massigli and François Poncet are all due for withdrawal.

René thinks Coty an amiable and honorable man, but feels no especial regard for Laniel, who, because of his tenacious insistence on remaining a presidential candidate, disconcerted all efforts to agree upon a strong compromise candidate. He thinks a strong French Government (which the Laniel one is not) might achieve ratification of EDC if it is determined to do so (which Laniel was not).

This afternoon I went to the Charpentier gallery to see the exhibition of portraits of distinguished French men and women. Many of them were lent by museums and it was like a walk through the history of European civilization. I had met Monsieur Dillé of Charpentier at Boussac's shoot and found him [redacted] agreeable and interesting.

Went to the movie Lucrezia Borgia. Sensational shots, much fighting and many murders. Attendance is forbidden to children under sixteen, presumably because of the display of bare bosoms by some of the actresses - a brave show of pulchritude.

This evening the Alphands and Griselda came to dinner. At midnight we went to our friend Jean Rigaud's new nightclub. He was in wonderful vein, with screaming jokes on French politics.

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